Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A hydrating case having a containment recess for containing therein a moisture-containing contact lens and used for bringing the moisture-containing contact lens in a dry state into contact with a hydrating liquid within the containment recess in order to absorb water and swell, the hydrating case ~~being characterized in that~~comprising:

an ~~area of a concave~~a concave area on an inside face of the containment recess on which the moisture-containing contact lens rests ~~is formed~~formed as a concave bowed face having a curvature generally equivalent to that of a front surface of the moisture-containing contact lens, and a depression that opens out onto the concave bowed face ~~is formed~~formed in order to create a gap between the moisture-containing contact lens and the containment recess so that when the hydrating liquid flows down along the concave inside face, the hydrating liquid enters ~~the gap.~~the gap;

wherein:

a mating portion is formed in a rim of a mouth of the containment recess, and a cover is detachably attached by being mated with the mating portion,

the cover has a tube through-hole formed therein, and a supply tube for supplying the hydrating liquid to the containment recess is inserted through the tube through-hole so that when the containment recess is covered by the cover, the hydrating liquid is supplied to the containment recess through the supply tube, and

the mouth of the containment recess is provided with a liquid tight closure so as to constitute a distribution case in which the moisture-containing contact lens is sealed within the containment recess while being in a state of immersion in a distribution

storage liquid.

2.   (Currently Amended) A hydrating case according to claim 1, wherein the depression is formed in such a way that, when the moisture-containing contact lens is placed on the concave bowed face of the containment recess, the gap formed between the moisture-containing contact lens and the containment recess has a̶ an opening that opens to an outer peripheral side of the moisture-containing contact lens, and extends continuously diametrically inward from the opening.

3.   (Previously Presented) A hydrating case according to claim 1, wherein the depression is formed by at least one groove.

4.   (Withdrawn) A hydrating case according to claim 3, wherein the at least one groove is of a pattern extending generally in the circumferential direction of the concave bowed face.

5.   (Previously Presented) A hydrating case according to claim 3, wherein the at least one groove has a pattern extending in the generally diametrical direction of the concave bowed face.

6.   (Previously Presented) A hydrating case according to claim 1, wherein a groove depth dimension is 0.05 mm or more where a groove width dimension is 1 mm or less, whereas the depth dimension is less than 0.05 mm where the groove width dimension is 3 mm or more.

7.   (Previously Presented) A hydrating case according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of an area: Ab occupied by the depression to a total area: Aa of the concave bowed face on which the moisture-containing contact lens rests, is such that $0.2 \leq Ab/Aa \leq 0.8$.

8.   (Previously Presented) A hydrating case according to claim 1, wherein a center support portion having no grooves is formed in a center portion of the concave bowed face so that a center portion of the moisture-containing contact lens is superimposed over an

entire face of the center support portion.

9.　　(Previously Presented) A hydrating case according to claim 1, wherein a center depression is formed in a center portion of the containment recess so that a lens center is supported floating above the containment recess by the center depression.

10.　　(Previously Presented) A hydrating case according to claim 1, wherein both the concave bowed face and a bottom face of the depression have smooth, generally mirrored surfaces.

11-20. (Canceled)